IOWA BOARD OF PHYSICAL AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY RULE SUMMARY STATEMENT: ETHICAL CONDUCT IN RELATION TO FEES AND CONSIDERATION

The role of the Iowa Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy includes public protection of citizens of this state in regard to the provision of physical and occupational therapy services. The Board issues this summary of an existing rule in an effort to remind practitioners of their individual obligation to remain independent in providing patient care.

The following is current regulation regarding ethical conduct by the physical therapist (PT) and occupational therapist (OT):

Chapter 201.1(2) A physical therapist shall:

- d. Not directly or indirectly request, receive, or participate in the dividing, transferring, assigning, rebating, or refunding an unearned fee.
- e. Not profit by means of credit or other valuable consideration as an unearned commission, discount, or gratuity in connection with the furnishing of physical therapy services.

Chapter 208.1(2) An Occupational Therapist shall:

- d. Not directly or indirectly request, receive, or participate in the dividing, transferring, assigning, rebating, or refunding an unearned fee.
- e. Not profit by means of credit or other valuable consideration as an unearned commission, discount, or gratuity in connection with the furnishing of occupational therapy services.

Licensees should remain vigilant in their efforts to avoid situations that create the potential for unearned fees or alternative compensations. Such arrangements could negatively impact appropriate utilization of PT and/or OT services as well as the independent professional judgment of the PT or OT.

This statement is not a legally binding opinion of the Board, but is only intended to provide guidance to licensees and the public. The Board may make formal policy only through administrative rules, declaratory orders or contested case decisions.

Approved by the Iowa Board of Physical & Occupational Therapy on February 10, 2010.